

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3139
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2007
HUMAN GENOME DIVERSITY PROJECT
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Andhra University scientists in collaboration with US scientists under Human Genome Diversity Project have tracked markers that cause cancer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the tracking of cancer markers help in containing cancer?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) No sir, there is no formal collaboration between Andhra University scientists with US scientists under Human Genome Diversity Project for tracking any marker related to cancer.

(c) The cancer biomarkers are a great help in containing cancer development especially if detected early. The best example for this has been pap smear detection of cervical cancer. This has brought down the fatalities due to cervical cancer in western countries dramatically. Detection of prostate specific antigen levels similarly is helpful in diagnosis of prostate cancer where again detection at early stages helps in containing the disease. In fact estimates point out that the overall mortality and economic burden, when the overall population is screened for cancer development at earlier stages, would be significantly reduced.